GUIDE TO THE RQ2 KAZAK FILE

[The RQ2 Kazak file contains specific data on the Kazak (Kirgiz-Kaisak) people and their culture. The Kirgiz-Kazaks are often erroneously referred to as Kirgiz. In the 19th century there were two related groups, nomads of the low steppe, the Kirgiz-Kazak, and nomads of the mountain pastures, the Kara-Kirgiz, or Kirgiz proper. The two groups were united by Russia in the Kirgiz Republic, but the two have since become separate republics within the Soviet Union. Traditionally the Kazaks were nomadic stock-breeders. Sources indicate that the name Kazak refers to people who separated from their rulers and established independent lives of their own. They were divided into three hordes or Ordas -- the Great Orda in the east, the Little Orda in the west, and the Middle Orda between them. The modern Kazak SSR is located between 50° - 80° east latitude and 40° - 50° north longitude, with the Russian SFSR on the north, China on the east, the Kirgiz SSR and the Uzbek SSR on the south, and the Caspian Sea on the west. The population of the Kazak SSR as of 1970 was 12,849,000. There was a drastic population decline in the earlier part of the 20th century, and Krader and Wayne estimated that perhaps only 40% of the population in 1955 were native Kazaks, and they projected a decreasing percentage. In 1939 the Russians estimated that there were about 400,000 Kazaks outside of the USSR. The Kazak language, which is closely related to Kirgiz, is a member of the Turkic family of the Altaic phylum.

There are six sources in the RQ2 file, three of which are in English. Numbers 4: Grodekov and 7: Sedel'nikov are

translations from Russian and 5: Levchine is a translation from French. The sources are not numbered continuously: there are no sources numbered 3 or 6 at this time. 1: Barthold is a short excerpt from the Encyclopedia of Islam on the origins of the Kazak. 2: Hudson is a well-documented study of social institutions. 4: Grodekov was written by a Russian general in the 19th century, and is concerned with customary law and the impact of the Russian conquest on native judicial customs. 5: Levchine, published in 1840, is a history of relationships between Russians and Kazaks, and of the Russian penetration of Turkestan in the 18th century. 7: Sedel'nikov, et al., is an historical account of the Central Asiatic area of the USSR from prehistoric times to the end of the 19th century, with general ethnographic information on the Kazak. 8: Krader and Wayne is a study prepared for the Department of the Army as a Background Study for Psychological Warfare, and it is based entirely on secondary sources. It is an analysis of the sources of conflict between Kazaks and Soviets.

For a cultural summary of the aboriginal Kazaks, see George Peter Murdock, "The Kazaks of Central Asia," in Our Primitive Contemporaries, New York, The MacMillian Company, 1934, pp. 135-162.

This seems to be a good general file with coverage of most basic categories. The time period covered is broad, from 1821 to 1955. Historical data and relationships with Russia have especially good coverage. The file was processed between 1956 and 1969.]